

Fort Sheridan, Lieutenant's Quarters  
(Building No. 22)  
165 Scott Loop  
Fort Sheridan  
Lake County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-4

HABS  
ILL,  
49-F'TSH,  
1/4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IL-1113-4

FORT SHERIDAN, LIEUTENANT'S QUARTERS (Building No. 22)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS  
ILL,  
49-FTSH,  
1/4-

Location: 165 Scott Loop  
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 16: 433230. 4674370.

Present Owner  
and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Officer's Quarters.

Significance: This building is one of sixteen similar buildings designed as Lieutenants' Quarters by Holabird and Roche in the late 1880's. These houses illustrate early efforts by the army to provide housing for officers and their families. Their distinctive appearance sets them apart from the officer's quarters constructed at a later period from plans which originated in the Office of the Quartermaster General.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Reichalt and Company, Chicago.
5. Original plan and construction: A rectangular building constructed of buff-cream brick with a gable roof and the entrance in the gable end. The ridge of the roof runs north-south.
6. Alterations and additions: The rear chimney has been removed above the roof. A rear basement window has been infilled with red-pink brick; red-orange brick has replaced the original brick below the roof on the gable ends. A window on the facade next to the main entrance has been infilled with matching brick. The original slate roof covering has been replaced with asphalt shingles.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings: Center for Cartographic and Architectural Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Annotated copies of plans and elevations, 1888. Manuscript plans and elevations, n.d.

Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois  
Plans and elevations, n.d.

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606  
Plans and elevations, 1889 series.

2. Old views: Mackern, H. G. Fort Sheridan: At Attention and Rest, Chicago, H. G. Mackern, 1897. n.p.

Views of Fort Sheridan, Record Group 92. Audio Visual Archives,  
National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.  
Reference nos. 92-F-61A-6, 92-F-61A-7.

3. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General Construction Division, Record Group 92. U.S. Army Continental Command, 6th Corps Area Records, Record Group 394, (contains specifications), National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A brick building with the entrance in the gable end through a wide rounded brick arch over an inset porch. A raked parapet with terra cotta coping distinguishes the front and rear. Constructed in 1890, the building was influenced by the currently popular Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, a style which easily adapted to the needs of a military post.
2. Condition of fabric: Necessary repairs have been made. The building remains in excellent condition with little alteration to its original fabric.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is a rectangular block with two bays across the facade and the entrance in the short side. It measures 44'-5" by 30'-8". There is a single story offset on the rear of the building serving as a rear entryway. It measures 5'-7" by 8'-7" by 15'. There are projecting bays on the east and west sides. The building is two-and-one-half stories with a full basement.
2. Foundations: A limestone rubble foundation with a limestone water table.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream colored brick laid in common bond with four rows of stretchers to one row of headers. There is a brick string course at the level of the first floor window sills.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Porches: A two bay porch is inset in the southwest corner. A wide, gauged brick Syrian arch with a radius of 5' spans the entrance. An extrados archivolt is formed by a course of projecting and recessed headers with a course of projecting headers above. A smaller similar arched opening pierces the porch wall on the west side. Decorative wrought iron railings enclose part of the porch and the seven concrete stairs that lead up to it.

6. Chimneys: There are two brick interior chimneys. One tall chimney is located in front of the dormer on the east side of the roof. The upper section of the chimney has been rebuilt with orange-red brick. It has a concrete cap. The second chimney is located on the ridge of the roof slightly rear of the center. It is constructed of orange-red bricks.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Flat gauged brick arches span all the doors except the rear doorway into the first floor which has a segmental arch. The doorways have limestone sills.

The door on the main entrance has four wood panels. A ground level entrance on the west side opens into a landing between the basement and the first floor on the rear stairway. The door has three wood panels and a single light. There are two entrances in the rear. the door into the rear entryway on the first story level is reached by one stone and six wooden stairs with wood railings. The stairs are painted gray. The door has five wood panels. The second rear entrance is into the basement down six stone stairs enclosed by concrete walls. The basement entrance has double doors with three wood panels and one light in each door. All the doors are painted black.

- b. Windows: The windows in the basement and on the three top floors have flat gauged brick arches except on the rear. The rear windows have segmental arches. The arches on the facade are topped by a brick-on-edge course with alternating recessed and projecting bricks. All of the windows have limestone sills.

The fenestration on the west side is uneven because of windows on the stair landings between the first and second floors. A projecting bay on the east has a half window on the second level which allows placement of a bed within the bay in the master bedroom on the second floor.

The windows in the basement are single sash with one to four lights. The windows on the top three floors are double hung sash. Two windows on the first floor level, one in the facade the other on the east side, are unusually large, measuring 64" across and 70" high. Originally a vertical wood mullion cut through the center of each window. Some of the mullions are still in place.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is a steeply pitched gable covered with asphalt shingles. At both gable ends there are raked parapets with moulded lap jointed terra cotta coping and corbeled brick brackets. The roof on the projecting bay on the east is pyramidal. The roof on the west projecting bay is hipped.
- b. Corners, cupolas, towers: A gabled dormer on the east side has two windows.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The basement contains four rooms opening off a central hall.
- b. First floor: The main entrance opens on to a side stairhall. The living room and dining room are on the east. A small powder room and the front staircase are on the west. A door at the end of the stairhall provides access to the rear of the house where a kitchen, a pantry and the rear staircase are located. The dining room extends into the projecting bay on the east of the house.
- c. Second floor: The second floor has four bedrooms opening off a hall which runs the length of the house. There are two bedrooms at the front of the house, one bedroom on the east side and one on the west behind both stairways. A bathroom and a storage area are located at the rear of the house on the west side.
- d. Third floor: The third floor has two bedrooms, a bath, and several storage areas opening off of a central hall.
- e. Stairways: The front stairway runs from the first to the second floor. It is open string with paneled wainscoting on the side. The stairway has three flights with an open well. The newel posts have rounded pyramidal tops with dentils. A pendant projecting from the ceiling to one side of the stairwell is similar in design. There are plain, rectangular balusters. The stairway and wainscoting are constructed of red oak. The newel posts, treads and hand rail retain a natural wood finish. The balusters, risers, and wainscoting have been painted an off-white color.

The rear stairway runs from the basement to the third floor. It is an enclosed dog-leg stair with winders. There is a plain wooden handrail with no balusters. The stairs are constructed of yellow pine with maple treads and are painted gray.

3. Flooring: The basement has concrete floors painted gray. The first and second stories have hardwood floors with boards that measure 2-1/4" across. The floor on the third story is made up of 3-1/4" boards painted gray.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The basement has painted brick walls and unfinished ceilings. The walls and ceilings on the three top floors are plastered and painted an off-white. The walls in the third floor bath and in the pantry have wainscoting of beaded yellow pine sheathing. Molded base boards on the first and second floors have been painted an off-white.
5. Openings: In the basement the doorways have segmental brick arches. Access into the living room and dining room on the first floor from the side stairhall and access between the two rooms is through wide rectangular doorways with molded architrave trim. Doors in the rear of the house on the first floor and on the second and third floors are paneled. Originally the doors on the second and third floor had rectangular single-light transoms. Several of the transoms on the third floor remain, the others have been boarded up.
6. Decorative features and trim: The fireplace in the living room is in a projecting chimney breast. It has a rectangular opening with a red brick surround and a fluted architrave painted an off-white color. A separate mantel shelf is attached to the wall above. The floor in front of the fireplace is red tile.

A sideboard is built into the north wall of the dining room. Below the main shelf a row of dentils similar to that on the newel post provides the main decorative motif. Three doors on the lower section have one panel each. The upper shelves have glass doors. The sideboard is painted white.

7. Hardware: A door knob on the first floor closet is brass with embossed interlaces design on the knob and plate. On the second floor doors several of the door knobs are wood with a plate having a geometric design. The knobs and plates appear to be original.

8. Mechanical equipment: The building was constructed with indoor plumbing and steam heat. The present steam heating system relies on oil rather than on coal as it did earlier. Electricity was available to the post as early as 1890, although the original lighting may have been by gas.
- D. Site: Original setting and orientation: The house faces south with the ridge of the roof running north-south. Situated on one of the residential loops that run between the parade ground on the west and Lake Michigan on the east, the house is the first one in from the avenue that circles the parade ground. It sits on a grassy lot with low lying shrubbery. The house immediately to the east is of similar construction.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
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### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.